

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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**SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO
DESHMUKH**

*Monday, March 30, 1992/Chaitra 10 1914
(Saka)*

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the percentage of population to be
covered by AIR and Doordarshan 1992-93,
State wise,

(b) whether it is proposed to cover the
entire population, and

(c) if so the steps taken by the Govern-
ment in this regard?

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Coverage by Air/T.V.

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*450 SHRI K PRADHANI

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MIN-
ISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROAD-
CASTING (KUMARI GIRJA VYAS) (a) to
(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the
House

STATEMENT

(a) Percentage of Estimated Population to be covered by AIR/TV services by the end of
1992-93

	<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>TV</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1	Andhra Pradesh	99	78.4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	98	44.4
3	Assam	98	82.4
4	Bihar	99*	91.7
5	Goa	99*	100.0

<i>State/Union Territory</i>		<i>Air</i>	<i>TV</i>
<i>1</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
6.	Gujarat	99*	76.8
7.	Haryana	99*	98.5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	91	61.9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	94	90.3
10.	Karnataka	96	68.7
11.	Kerala	95	86.3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	96.5	60.1
13.	Maharashtra	98.5	81.7
14.	Manipur	99*	66.4
15.	Meghalaya	96	97.2
16.	Mizoram	95	72.3
17.	Nagaland	97	69.6
18.	Orissa	98	77
19.	Punjab	99	100.0
20.	Rajasthan	98.5	61.5
21.	Sikkim	80	95.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	98.5	90.1
23.	Tripura	99*	93.3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	97.5	92.4
25.	West Bengal	99*	96.7
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	80	99.0
27.	Chandigarh	99*	100.0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	99*	43.6

	<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>TV</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
29	Delhi	99*	100 0
30	Daman & Diu	99*	100 0
31	Lakshadweep & Minicoy Islands	99*	99
32	Pondicherry	99*	100 0

* Fully covered

Notes Coverage figures in respect of Doordarshan includes population living in fringe areas where elevated antenna and boosters are required to obtain satisfactory reception

(b) and (c) Steps taken by Government to Enhance Air/TV Coverage

At present Radio and Doordarshan provide coverage to an estimated 95.9% and 81% of the population of the country respectively. Further expansion of the electronic media is being carried out in a phased manner depending upon availability of adequate resources and inter se priorities. 32 AIR and 152 TV transmitter projects are either at various stages of implementation or envisaged to be set up. With the commissioning of these projects Air and Doordarshan coverages would be available to 97.5% and 90% population of the country respectively.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has replied that 77 per cent of the people of this country will be covered by the end of 1992-93 when these projects are completed.

I would like to point out that my constituency is one of the largest constituency in the country having an area to the extent of 400 kms in length and 150 kms in breadth and not even one TV transmitter centre has been put up in my constituency.

May I know from the hon. Minister why this discrimination is there in regard to trans-

mission station when there are 21 stations in the whole of 21 parliamentary constituencies in the State of Orissa but not even one transmitter is located in my constituency?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Sir, as I understand, Korapur and Jeyapore are covered which are very near to the constituency of the hon. Member. Malkhangiri is being covered soon. We have already ordered for that. I have noted the point of view of the hon. Member.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Jeyapore is not within my constituency. It is within the Koraput constituency. There is not even one single transmitter centre in my constituency.

There are different stations around Nowrangpur parliamentary constituency. As I said earlier, it is a very large constituency covered with full of forests and mountains at different altitudes. Even with boosters and higher antennas, about 50 per cent of the people cannot view television programmes in my constituency. Will the Minister take into consideration this fact and complete within the year 1992-93 the project of commissioning a new transmitter centre in Nowrangpur?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: I have already mentioned that I have noted down the point of view of the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon Minister has not given a complete reply. The purpose of asking the question was to know as to what are the plans to cover entire population of the country. The hon Minister has made available the area-wise figures as well as the number of Doordarshan and Akashvani stations. The hon Minister has also stated that radio and TV coverage is nearly 95 and 81 per cent respectively.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Doordarshan is the best medium to reach the masses but the hon Minister did not give separate information about rural areas when ever she should have give separate information about urban and rural areas. Shri Rajesh Pilot has said that each Gram Panchayat will be provided telephone facility. Similarly, if television sets are provided to each Gram Panchayat information about the rural welfare programmes, family welfare programmes and other development programmes going on in the country may be made available to the people and it would facilitate to solve the problems of rural areas. I would like to know by what time the Government propose to provide TV and broadcasting facility to every Gram Panchayat?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS Mr Speaker, Sir, there were nearly 18 television centres in the Sixth Five Year Plan, when Doordarshan was introduced in this country. Gradually, we have reached the present percentage. At the time of introduction of television, the aim was to give preference to big cities, metropolitan cities and north-western areas. Later on, preference would be given to one lakh population. But it was observed that even then the entire area is not covered. Therefore preference is given to the areas which are near the borders, hill areas of north-west, tribal and sensitive areas. Gradually, we have reached the existing percentage. With the increase in economic capacity, we would be able to cover entire area. We are certainly committed to reach far-flung areas as well.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA) Sir, I just want to add to the answer given by my colleague. There was one question asked on the provision of TV sets to Panchayats. This is different from the transmitter with a high power or low power.

I must inform this House that so far as TV sets are concerned, 5,000 community TV sets were allotted during the Seventh Plan period for the North Eastern region because it is a far flung and tribal hill area.

We waited for the report of the Council there i.e., the North East Council and, according to their suggestion we have sanctioned community TV sets for some places. There are tribal and hilly areas. Even though we cover it by population-wise through our transmitter, unless there is purchasing power of the people to buy a set, it becomes really useless.

So, we are suggesting to the Planning Commission that we are in favours of giving more community TV sets but that depends on the resources that we obtain from the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI Mr Speaker, Sir, they have given assurances to Gujarat several times to link it with the national network but it has not been done so far. The hon Minister has said that efforts are being made to reach hilly areas but ground areas have not been covered so far. The programmes do not reach our rural areas, especially tribal areas. The message meant for the public does not reach them. We were given assurances. I would like to know by what time this work will be completed? How long shall we go on telling people that this Government would do the work?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS Mr Speaker, Sir, if the hon Member is hinting at the

regional service, preference would be given to it with the coming of INSAT-2. As far as Gujarat is concerned, it is well covered that is 99 per cent by AIR and 76.8 per cent by Doordarshan.

SHRICHHEDIPASWAN Mr Speaker, Sir, Vividh Bharati Programmes broadcast from Patna station of AIR or the Doordarshan news bulletin telecast 7.30 p.m. does not cover the entire Bihar. May I know from the hon. Minister by what time action would be completed to cover the entire Bihar, so that all the people of Bihar are able to hear the news?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA We are seriously going by the advice given at that time by the engineers to cover the whole of Bihar by micro wave. Now satellites have come. For that reason, we have already covered five States and our whole idea is to cover all the 25 States and 7 Union territories by the end of the Eighth Plan. Provided all those Plans which we have submitted to the Planning Commission are approved.

[Translation]

Upper Tapi Project

*451 **SHRIMAHENDRAKUMAR SINGH THAKUR** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the present position of the Upper Tapi project phase II in regard to Khena Gutghat Dam, Navatha Diversion dam, Khena Left bank Canal, Navatha Right Canal and Hatnool Right Bank Canal

(b) the details of land to be irrigated by the project in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed, and

(d) the expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) to (d) After examination of the report of Upper Tapi Stage II, which envisaged annual irrigation of about 46,700 hectares in Madhya Pradesh and 59,800 hectares in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 303 crores, the States have been advised to send a modified report keeping in view the observations made by the Central Water Commission. The modified report has not been received at the Centre. The time for completion and expenditure involved can be determined after receipt of the modified report here.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Maharashtra Government has made any recommendation regarding including upper Tapi project Phase II in the Eighth Five Year Plan? If not, why has the earlier three-phased project been suspended in between when its first phase was about to be completed?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA Mr Speaker, Sir, no proposal to include the aforesaid project in the Eighth Five Year plan has been received from Maharashtra Government. Although, our national policy is to complete those projects on priority basis on which work has already been started. We had raised this issue with the Maharashtra Government. It is hoped that they will agree on its inclusion in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR The reasons for delay in preparing the modified report as per the advice of Central Water Commission and the work completed in 1991-92 on the second phase of this project and the work proposed to be completed by the Government during 1992-93?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA As I have stated earlier, the report of this project has already been sent to the Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh Governments. They have been asked to furnish the certain information and clarifications required in connection.